



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

November 7, 2014

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

2014 FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS INCIDENT AND FIRE LOSS DATA REPORT

Enclosed are copies of the *2014 Fourth of July Fireworks Incident and Fire Loss Data Report*. Our Department, in cooperation with the Office of the State Fire Marshal and fire agencies throughout Southern California, participated in a Fireworks Safety and Educational Program. The information contained in this report is based on data collected from June 17, 2014, at 0800 hours and ending July 17, 2014, at 0800 hours.

Intensive public awareness programs and media events on fireworks safety were conducted to encourage attendance at public fireworks displays. This year, the fire loss increased to \$86,225 as compared to the \$11,700 reported in 2013. This fire loss increase was primarily due to significant property losses during fireworks incidents in Whittier and San Gabriel. The reported fireworks-related injuries increased to eight (8) as compared to six (6) injuries reported in 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180, or your staff may contact Assistant Fire Chief Philip Cocker, Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Division, at (323) 890-4144.

DLO:yh

Enclosure

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SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDDORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRVINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWNDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fourth of July Incident and Fire Loss Report



PROVIDED BY:

**THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

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INTRODUCTION

It would be hard to imagine Fourth of July festivities without public displays of fireworks, and a number of other holidays, such as New Year's, often call for big shows as well. Nevertheless, celebrations can become tragic when someone is injured by consumer fireworks. Despite federal and State regulations on the type of fireworks available for sale to the public, even those fireworks sold legally carry an elevated risk of personal injury.

Fireworks are considered hazardous materials with the potential to cause serious injury. All fireworks are regulated by the Federal Hazardous Substance Act, which prohibits sale of the more dangerous types to the public to avoid injury and property damage. Among these banned products are reloadable mortar shells, cherry bombs, aerial bombs, M-80s, and firecrackers with more than two (2) grains of powder. Likewise, all mail order kits to construct fireworks are strictly prohibited. Further, legal fireworks must have labels with instructions for safe use, as well as warnings and precautions.

Although these regulations and standards have helped make consumer fireworks safer, all fireworks are potentially hazardous. For example, sparklers, which are legal in the majority of states, burn at temperatures of approximately 2,000°F, and their colorful sparks, belie the potential dangers. In our continuing effort to improve services to the public, we will again track fireworks-related injuries and losses. If an incident is related to, or is directly attributable to, the handling or mishandling of fireworks, it must be correctly entered into the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).



The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (Department), otherwise known as the Consolidated Fire Protection District, reports statistical information on all fires (vegetation, structure, misc.), to the NFIRS developed by the United States Fire Administration (USFA) in partnership with the National Fire Information Council (NFIC). NFIRS is designed as an all-incident reporting system to capture the full range of fire service incident types. The Department uses the information to assess the effectiveness of fireworks prevention and awareness campaigns in both contract cities and unincorporated communities within the County of Los Angeles.

Public awareness programs and media events on fireworks safety were conducted to encourage attendance at public fireworks displays. This year, the fire loss was \$86,225.00 with eight (8) reported fireworks-related injuries.

This report is based on all incident data involving fireworks collected over a one-month period from June 17, 2014, at 0800 hours, through July 17, 2014, at 0800 hours.

Data Reported by County of Los Angeles Communities

CITY	TYPE OF FIRES			CAUSE OF FIRES			ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
	MISC	VEG	ROOF/STR	UND	ILL	S & S					
Avalon	1			1						1	S&S
Azusa	1		1	1	1						
Bellflower	1			1							
Commerce	1			1							
Hawaiian Gardens	2			2						2	ILL
Hawthorne	1	1			2						
La Puente	5			5					25.00		
Lynwood			1	1					600.00		
Malibu		1		1			0.11				
Palmdale		2		1	1		0.22				
Pico Rivera		1	1		2		0.11	7	10,000.00		
Pomona		1		1			0.12				
Whittier			2	2				2	50,600.00		
TOTALS	12	6	5	4	16	3	0.56	9	\$61,225.00	3	

MISC=MISCELLANEOUS VEG=VEGETATION STR=BUILDING/STRUCTURE
UND=UNDETERMINED ILL=ILLEGAL S&S=SAFE AND SANE

Data Reported by County of Los Angeles Unincorporated Communities

UNINCORPORATE DCITIES	TYPE OF FIRES			CAUSE OF FIRES			ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
	MISC	VEG	ROOF/STR	UND	ILL	S & S					
Carson				1						1	ILL
Compton Cnty	1			1							
East Los Angeles	2	1		2							
Florence Cnty	1				1					1	S&S
La Puente Cnty	1			1							
Lennox	2			2						2	ILL
Pasadena Cnty	1			1						1	ILL
San Gabriel Cnty	2			1	1				25,000.00		
Valinda	2			2							
Whittier Cnty		1		1			0.12				
Willowbrook Cnty		2		2			0.11				
TOTALS	12	4	0	5	10	1	0.23	0	\$25,000.00	5	

MISC=MISCELLANEOUS VEG=VEGETATION STR=BUILDING/STRUCTURE
UND=UNDETERMINED ILL=ILLEGAL S&S=SAFE AND SANE

Data Reported by County of Los Angeles Fire Department Battalions (BN)

BN	CITY	TYPE OF FIRES			CAUSE OF FIRES			ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
		MISC	VEG	ROOF/STR	UND	ILL	S & S					
2	Azusa	1		1	1		1					
3	Commerce	1					1					
	East Los Angeles	2	1				2					
5	Malibu		1				1	0.11				
7	Carson						1				1	ILL
8	Pico Rivera		1	1			2	0.11	7	10,000.00		
	Whittier			2			2		2	50,600.00		
9	Bellflower	1			1						2	ILL
	Hawaiian Gardens	2					2					
10	Pasadena Cnty	1					1			25,000.00	1	ILL
	San Gabriel Cnty	2			1		1					
12	La Puente	5					5			25.00		
	La Puente Cnty	1					1					
	Valinda	2					2					
13	Compton Cnty	1			1						1	S&S
	Florence Cnty	1					1					
	Lynwood			1	1					600.00		
	Willowbrook Cnty		2		2			0.11				
14	Avalon	1					1				1	S&S
15	Pomona		1		1			0.12				
16	Azusa						1					
17	Palmdale		2		1		1	0.22				
18	Hawthorne	1	1				2					
20	Lennox	2					2				2	ILL
21	Whittier Cnty		1		1			0.12				
TOTALS		24	10	5	9	26	5	0.79	9	\$86,225.00	8	

MISC=MISCELLANEOUS VEG=VEGETATION STR=BUILDING/STRUCTURE
UND=UNDETERMINED ILL=ILLEGAL S&S=SAFE AND SANE

Data Reported by County of Los Angeles
Supervisory District

**FIRST DISTRICT
MOLINA**

CITY	MISC	VEG	STR/ ROOF	UND	ILL	S&S	ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
Azusa	1		1		1	2					
Commerce	1				1						
East Los Angeles	2	1			2						
Florence Cnty	1					1				1	S&S
La Puente	5				5				25.00		
La Puente Cnty	1				1						
Pico Rivera		1	1		2		0.11	7	10,000.00		
Pomona		1		1			0.12				
Valinda	2				2						
Whittier Cnty		1		1			0.12				
TOTALS	13	4	2	2	14	3	0.35	7	\$10,025.00	1	

**SECOND DISTRICT
RIDLEY-THOMAS**

CITY	MISC	VEG	STR/ ROOF	UND	ILL	S&S	ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
Carson					1					1	ILL
Compton Cnty	1			1							
Hawthorne	1	1				2					
Lennox	2				2					2	ILL
Lynwood			1	1					600.00		
Willowbrook Cnty		2		2			0.11				
TOTALS	4	3	1	4	3	2	0.11	0	\$600.00	3	

**THIRD DISTRICT
YAROSLAVSKY**

CITY	MISC	VEG	STR/ ROOF	UND	ILL	S&S	ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
Malibu		1			1		0.11				
TOTALS	0	1	0	0	1	0	0.11	0	\$0	0	

**FOURTH DISTRICT
KNABE**

CITY	MISC	VEG	STR/ ROOF	UND	ILL	S&S	ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
Avalon	1				1					1	S&S
Bellflower	1			1							
Hawaiian Gardens	2				2					2	ILL
Whittier			2		2			2	50,600.00		
TOTALS	4	0	2	1	5	0	0	2	\$50,600.00	3	

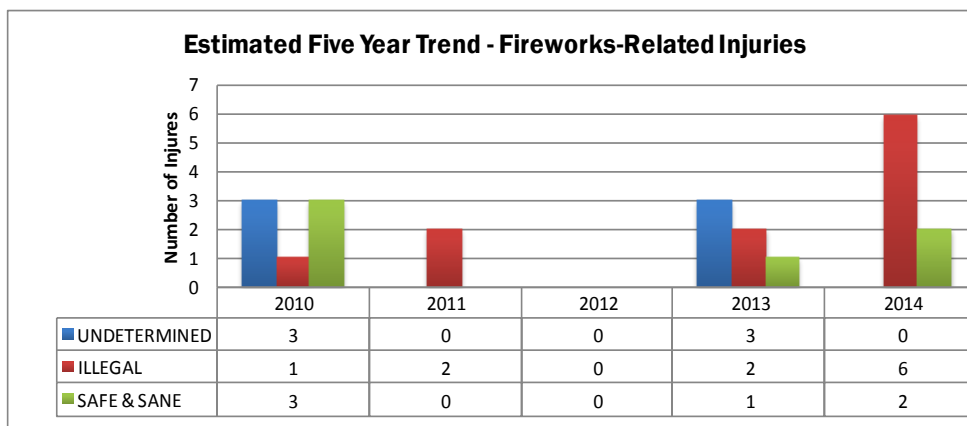
**FIFTH DISTRICT
ANTONOVICH**

CITY	MISC	VEG	STR/ ROOF	UND	ILL	S&S	ACRES BURNED	ROOF COVERAGE	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURY	CAUSE OF INJURY
Palmdale		2		1	1		0.22				
Pasadena	1				1					1	ILL
San Gabriel Cnty	2			1	1				25,000.00		
TOTALS	3	2	0	2	3	0	0.22	0	\$25,000.00	1	

Five Year Comparison Study

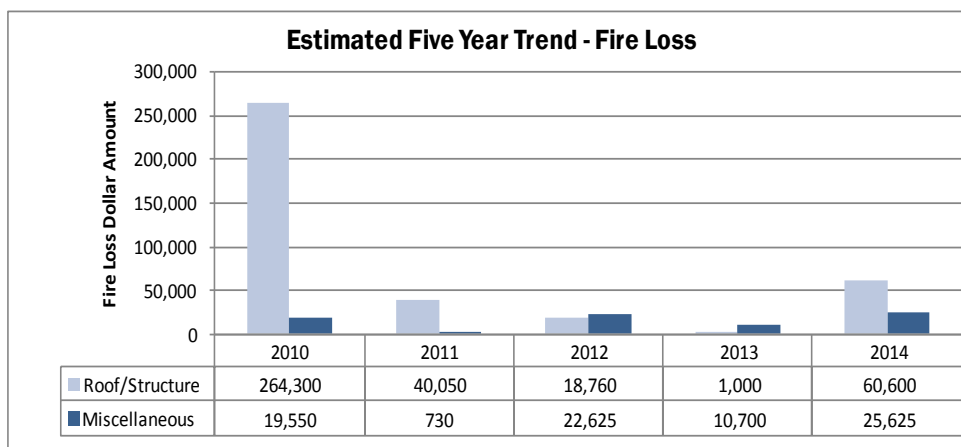
FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURIES

The majority of injuries are associated with the July 4-5 time period. It is estimated that children under the age of 15 suffer nearly half of all fireworks-related injuries. Burns are the most common form of injury. Burn injuries can occur to all parts of the body. Each year nationwide, many people are injured and some are killed by fireworks. Below is a five-year trend in Los Angeles County on the fireworks-related injuries and the type of device that caused the injury.

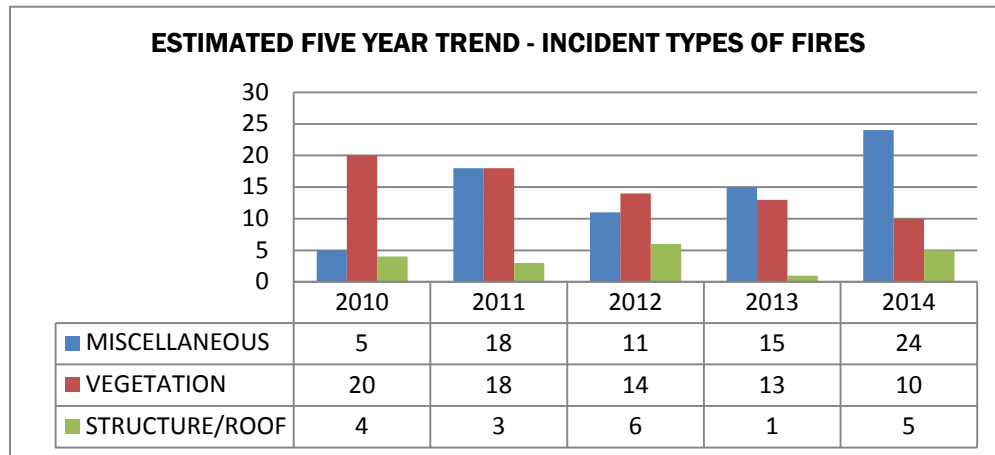


FIRE LOSS

Property loss is substantially less in fires caused by fireworks than in other types of fires because most fires caused by fireworks occur outside, where the fires do less damage and cause lower dollar replacement value than structure fires.

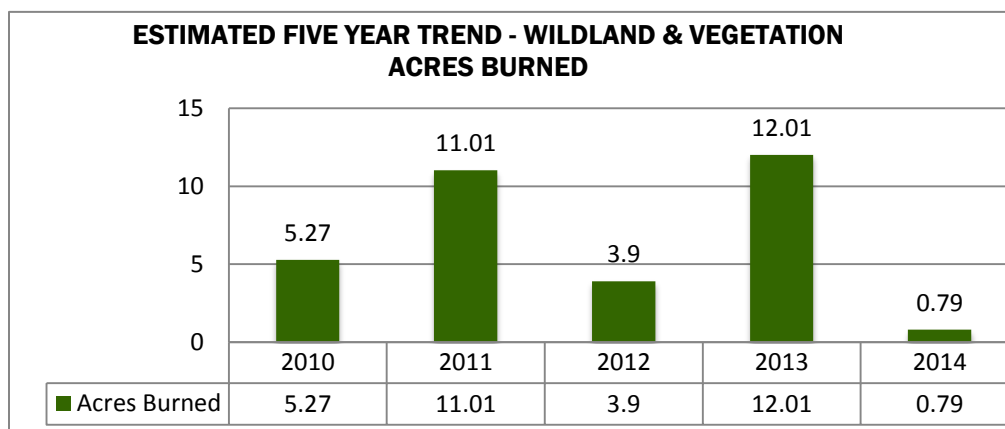


INCIDENT TYPE



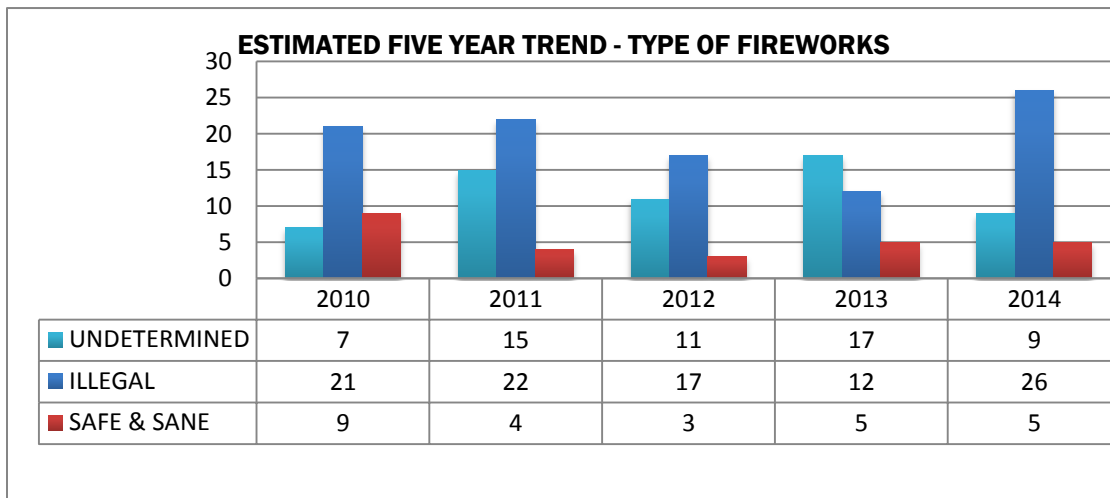
WILDLAND & VEGETATION

Wildland fires account for the largest number of fires and represent a large percentage of the fire loss. Approximately 50 percent of fires caused by fireworks occur during the Fourth of July holiday, often in open fields or vacant lots. As such, the materials most commonly ignited by fireworks are organic materials such as grass and trees.



TYPES OF FIREWORKS

Fireworks are considered hazardous materials with the potential to cause serious injury. All fireworks are regulated by the Federal Hazardous Substance Act, which prohibits the sale of the more dangerous types to the public to avoid injury and property damage.



24-HOUR ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes a preliminary summary of fireworks-related emergency incidents, property loss, and the number of injuries that occurred on July 4, 2014. Also included is a summary of the community outreach efforts to mitigate injury and property loss during the 2014 Fourth of July holiday.

FIREWORKS-RELATED EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The following fireworks-related emergency activity took place during the 24-hour period that began on July 4, 2014, at 0800 hours, and concluded on July 5, 2014, at 0800 hours.

Number of Incidents	2013	2014
Structure Fires	0	2
Miscellaneous Fires	4	4
Grass/Brush Fires	4	0
Total	8	6
Types of Fireworks	2013	2014
Illegal (ILL)	2	6
Undetermined (UND)	4	1
Safe and Sane (SAS)	2	0
Total	8	7
Dollar/Average Loss/Injuries	2013	2014
Structures/Contents	\$0	\$50,000.00
Miscellaneous Property	\$10,700.00	\$0
Grass/Brush	8.63 Acres	1.1 Acres
Injuries (Civilian)	0	2
Total	\$10,700.00	\$50,000.00

During the 24-hour reporting period, the Department's Fire Command and Control Facility (FCCF) received 2,016 calls, of which 1,182 required resources to be dispatched. The other calls were duplicate calls, non-injury calls, questions regarding illegal fireworks, and questions regarding which cities allow Safe and Sane fireworks. The call volume increased in 2014 as compared to 2013. Last year, FCCF received 1,966 calls, of which 1,122 calls required resources to be dispatched.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show instead of using private home-use fireworks.

The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2014:

- Conducted the 23rd Annual “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” with the theme of *Visit a Local Professional Fireworks Show*. All elementary schools within the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate and over 500 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 26, 2014, to announce and award prizes to the winners of the “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest.” The public was also encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show. Representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Grossman Burn Center, and the County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department attended. The City of Los Angeles Police Department was present to discuss the dangers of both legal and illegal fireworks.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations regarding the potential dangers of fireworks.
- Activated the Professional Fireworks Show Directory Hotline at (888) 654-FIRE to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- The Public Affairs Unit posted public safety information and videos on the website at www.fire.lacounty.gov to indicate the cities that allowed “Safe and Sane” fireworks as well as the cities not permitting fireworks. The website included a list of all professional fireworks shows in the County and advised that fireworks are not permitted in unincorporated County areas. A link to the www.safejuly4th.org website was provided in this section.
- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Reviewed and approved the Outdoor Public Fireworks Display permits and provided fire safety officer oversight for 44 public fireworks displays.
- Staffed the FCCF with Fire Prevention Division personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.
- Collaborated with law enforcement agencies throughout the County. An estimated 20,000 copies of flyers and posters were printed for all County fire stations to promote a Safe and Sane Fourth of July holiday.
- Seized over 164,000 pounds of illegal fireworks through the efforts of the fireworks task force which was comprised of our Department’s Arson Investigators and Law Enforcement personnel.

CONCLUSION

The number of fire incidents (structure, grass/brush, and misc.) caused by illegal and/or “Safe and Sane” Fireworks increased by 9, from 30 in 2013 to 39 in 2014. The dollar loss increased from \$11,700 in 2013 to \$86,225.00 in 2014. There were eight (8) civilian reported injuries caused by fireworks this year.

As part of our ongoing effort to discourage the use and sale of illegal fireworks in the County of Los Angeles, it is imperative that we continue to make an aggressive effort against those who jeopardize public safety by the sale of illegal fireworks.

Additionally, it is our goal to reduce the property loss and the number of injuries caused by the use of illegal fireworks. Fireworks account for a substantial number of preventable injuries and fires. Because fireworks can be dangerous and deadly, the safest way to enjoy them is through public displays conducted by professional pyrotechnicians hired by communities over the Fourth of July holiday. Parents need to be especially vigilant during this period in assuring that children do not possess dangerous fireworks or mishandle legal ones.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Los Angeles County Fire Department is to protect lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost-effective fire protection and life safety services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S VISION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles County Fire Department will be an exemplary organization acclaimed for our national reputation, our regional strength, and our hometown attentiveness as we provide fire protection and life safety services.

CORE VALUES

Integrity • Teamwork • Caring • Courage • Commitment • Community



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